RED Theatre

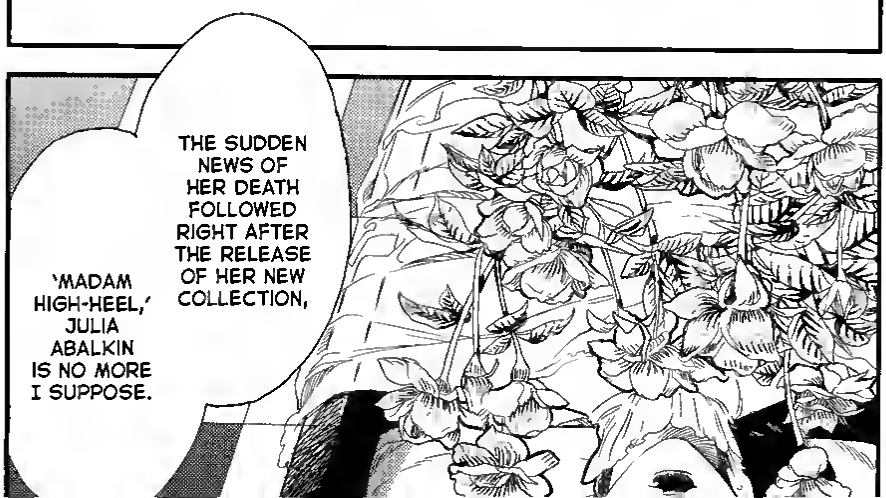
CHAPTER 1

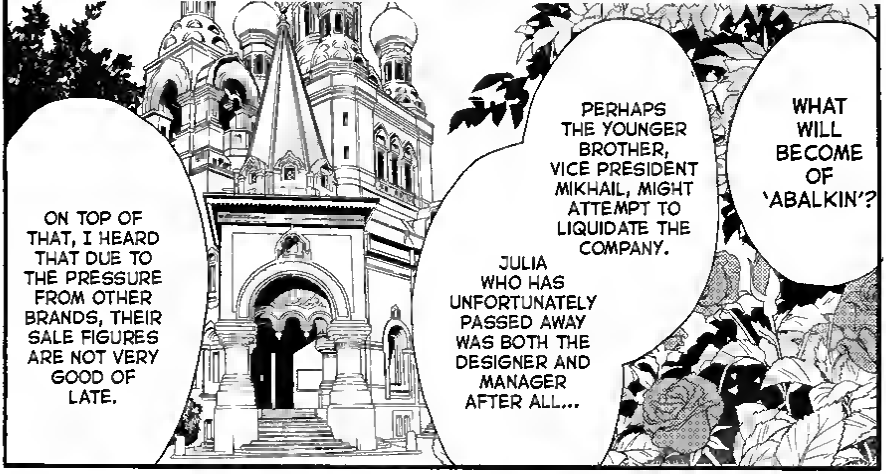
Chise Ogawa

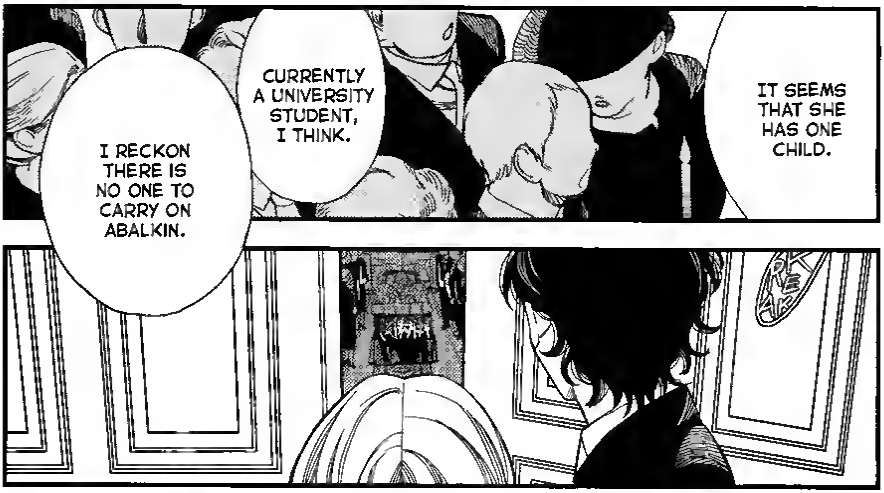
Forever, dance you shall.
Dance in your red shoes.
Dance till you turn pale and cold,
Dance till you shrivel to but skin and bones.

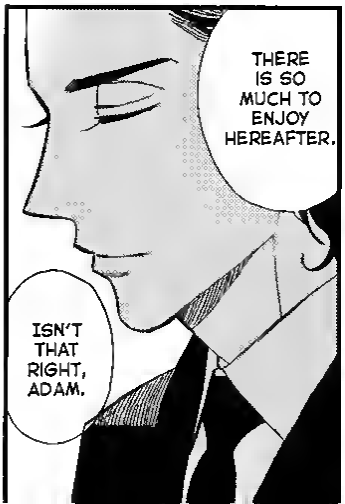
Kusuyama Masao translation of "The Red Shoes"
by Hans Christian Andersen.*

*A passage from Andersen's fairy tale collection volume 2, published and translated by 同和春秋社

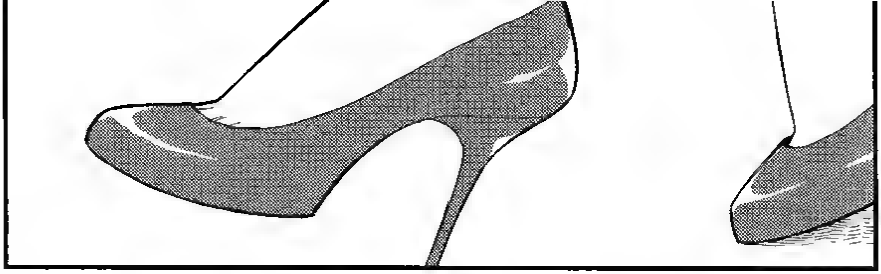

THE SUDDEN NEWS OF HER DEATH FOLLOWED RIGHT AFTER THE RELEASE OF HER NEW COLLECTION,
'MADAM HIGH-HEEL,' JULIA ABALKIN IS NO MORE I SUPPOSE.

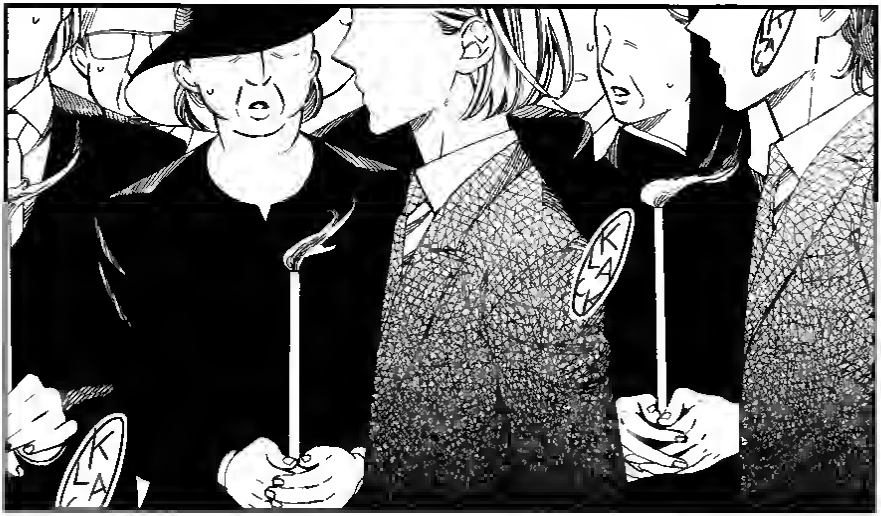

WHAT WILL BECOME OF 'ABALKIN'?
PERHAPS THE YOUNGER BROTHER, VICE PRESIDENT MIKHAIL, MIGHT ATTEMPT TO LIQUIDATE THE COMPANY.
JULIA WHO HAS UNFORTUNATELY PASSED AWAY WAS BOTH THE DESIGNER AND MANAGER AFTER ALL...
ON TOP OF THAT, I HEARD THAT DUE TO THE PRESSURE FROM OTHER BRANDS, THEIR SALE FIGURES ARE NOT VERY GOOD OF LATE.


IT SEEMS THAT SHE HAS ONE CHILD.
CURRENTLY A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, I THINK.
I RECKON THERE IS NO ONE TO CARRY ON ABALKIN.


THERE IS SO MUCH TO ENJOY HEREAFTER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ADAM.

HALF.
NO, PERHAPS JUST 40% OF THEM.
IT WOULD SEEM THAT OUR ABALKIN SHOES ARE NOT TO THEIR TASTE.

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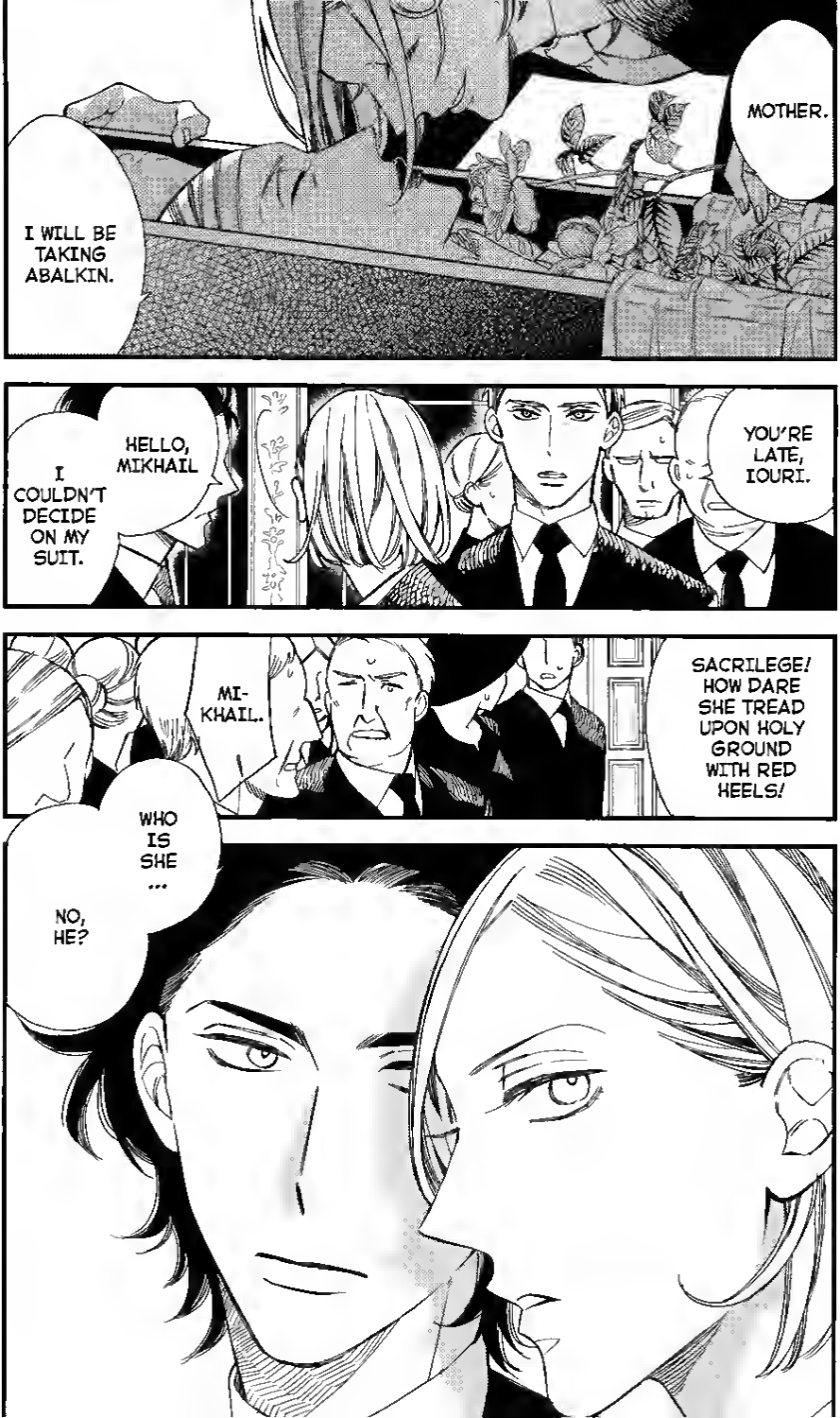
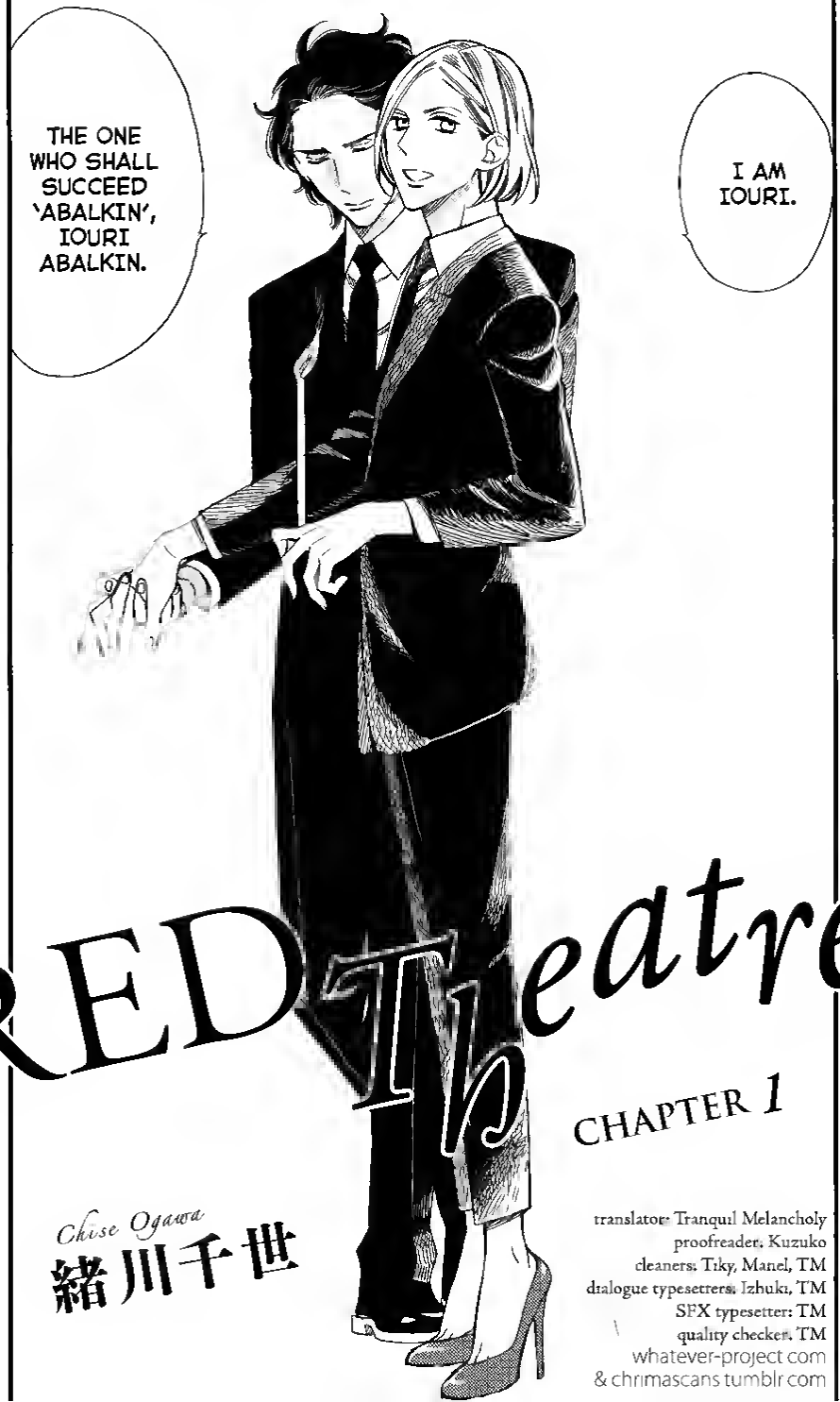

I WILL BE TAKING ABALKIN.
MOTHER.
I COULDN'T DECIDE ON MY SUIT.
HELLO, MIKHAIL
YOU'RE LATE, IOURI.
MI-KHAIL.
SACRILEGE! HOW DARE SHE TREAD UPON HOLY GROUND WITH RED HEELS!
NO, HE?
WHO IS SHE ...



RED Theatre

CHAPTER 1

Chise Ogawa
緒川千世

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quality checker: TM
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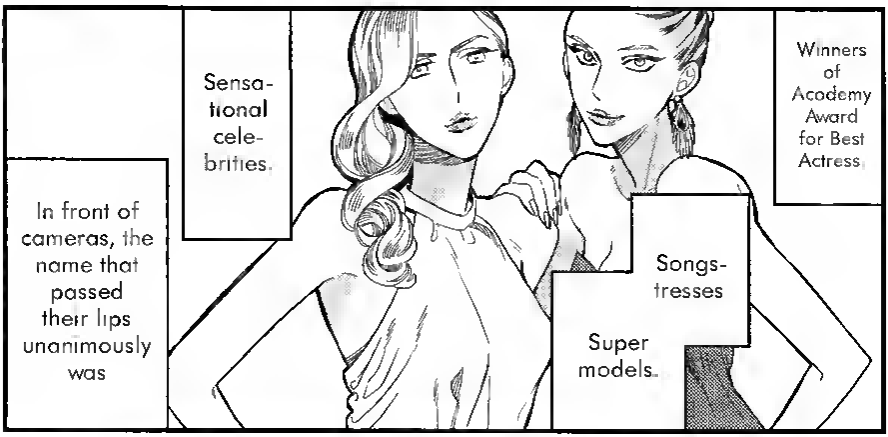
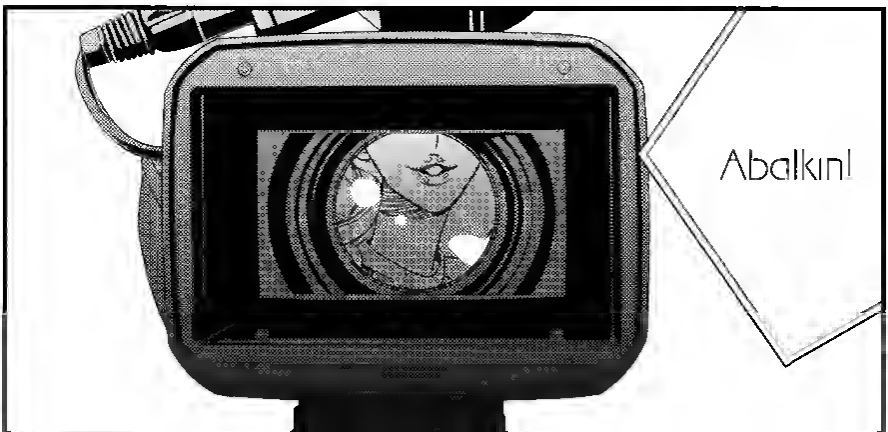
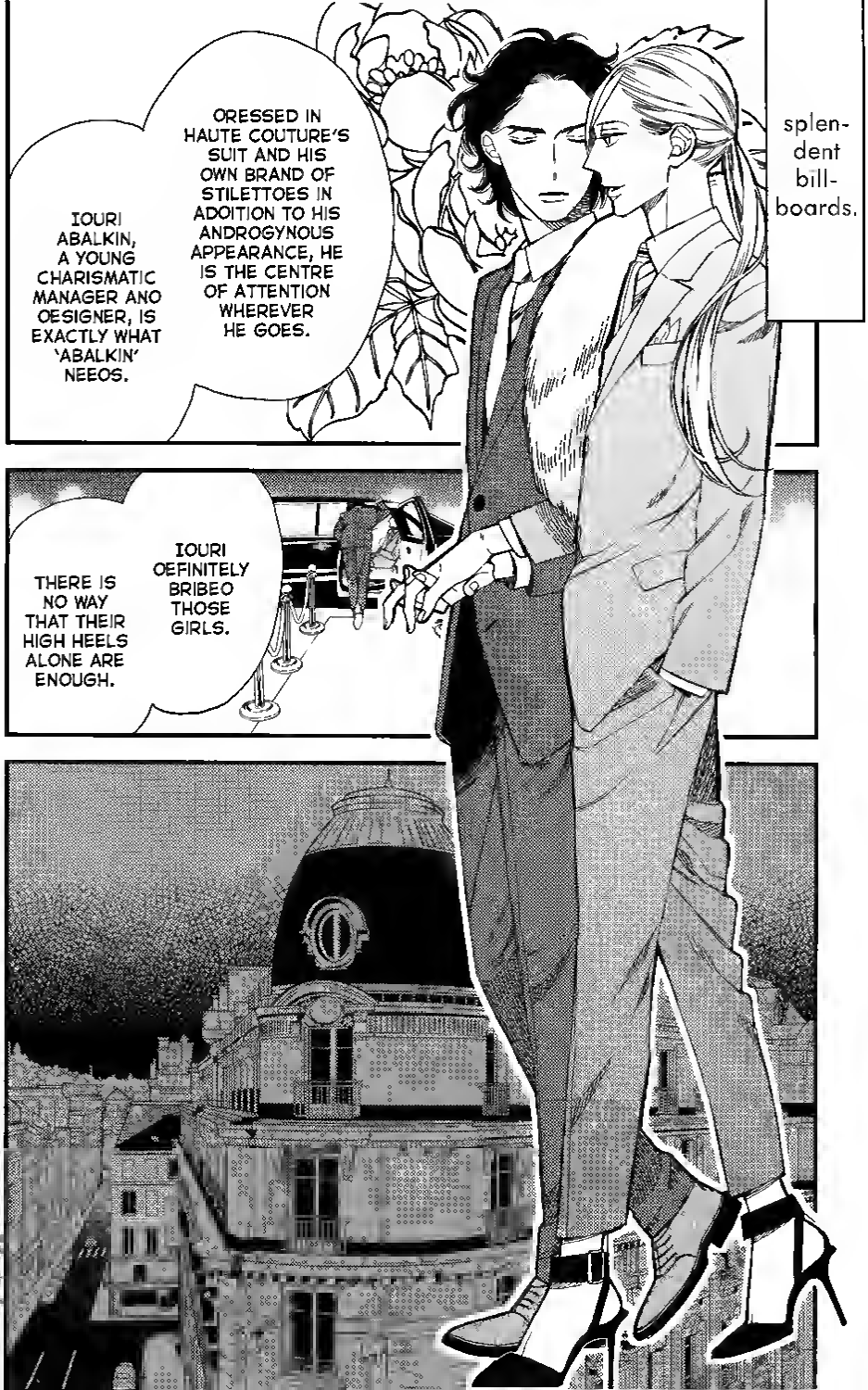
& chrimascans.tumblr.com

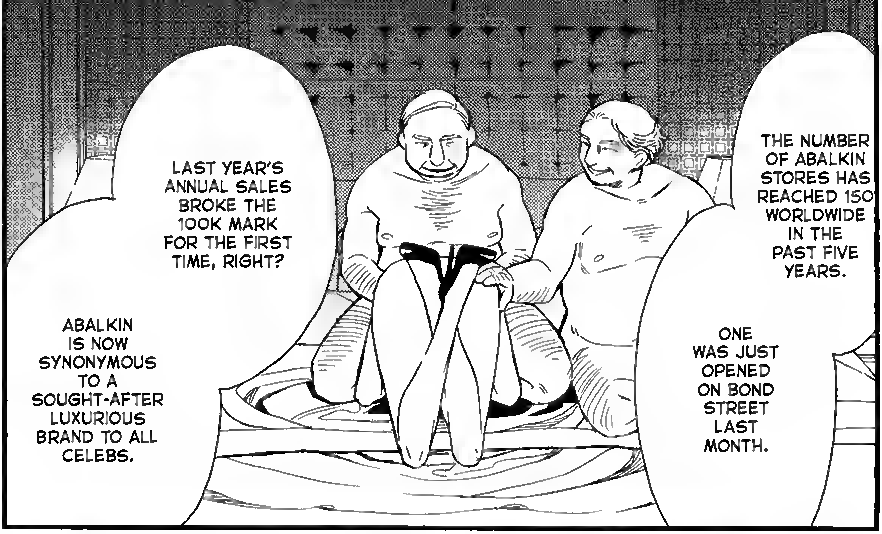
5 years later at Paris Fashion Gala.

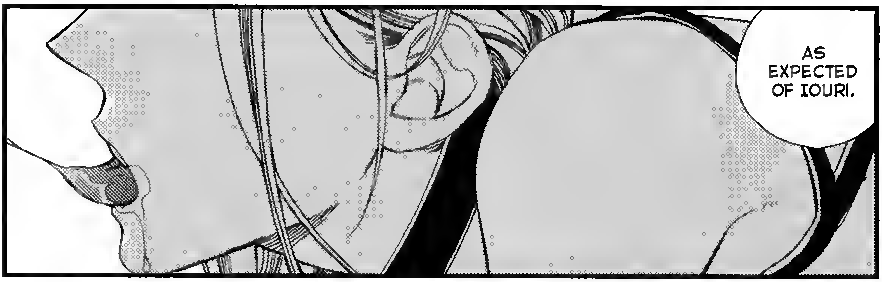

In front of cameras, the name that passed their lips unanimously was
Sensa-tional cele-brities.
Winners of Acodemy Award for Best Actress.
Songs-tresses
Super models.


Abalkin!

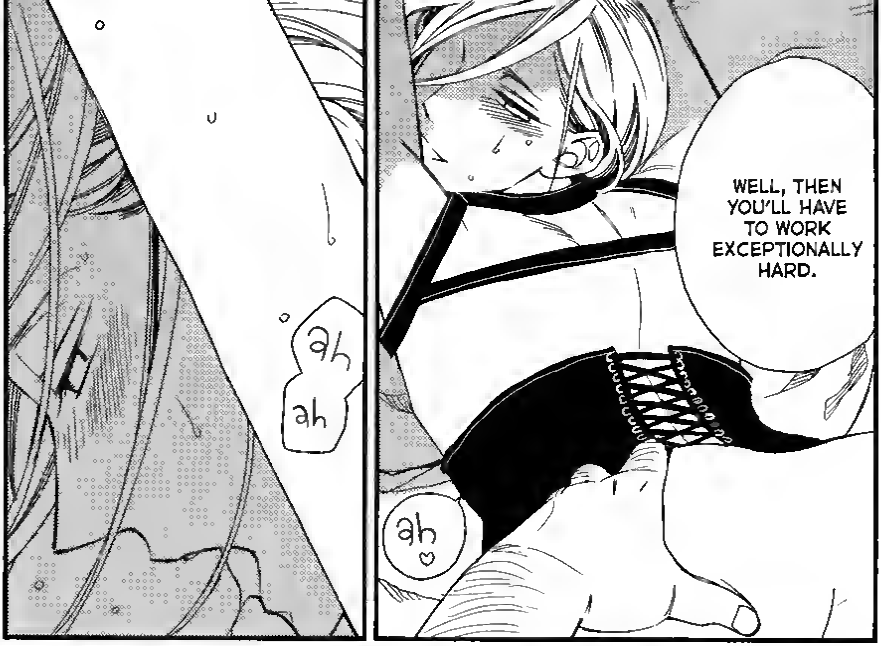
ABALKIN HAS MONOPOLISED THE FEET AT THIS YEAR'S GALA.
With thot, those some heels flew off the shelves on the following doy.
IOURI, YOUR FACE.
I KNOW.
HERE HE COMES! IOURI ABALKIN!
The fashion industry soon reoches the point where design ond quolity olone do not suffice without
extensive promotion, persisting image strotegies, endless medio exposure, ond

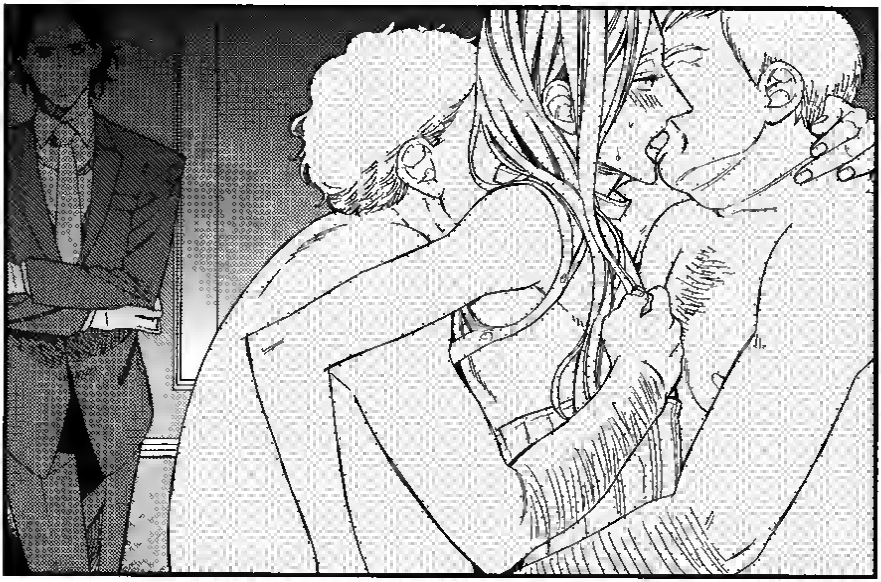

splen-
dent
bill-
boards.
IOURI ABALKIN, A YOUNG CHARISMATIC MANAGER ANO OESIGNER, IS EXACTLY WHAT 'ABALKIN' NEEOS.
ORESSED IN HAUTE COUTURE'S SUIT AND HIS OWN BRAND OF STILETTOES IN ADOITION TO HIS ANDROGYNOUS APPEARANCE, HE IS THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION WHEREVER HE GOES.
THERE IS NO WAY THAT THEIR HIGH HEELS ALONE ARE ENOUGH.
IOURI OEFINITELY BRIBEO THOSE GIRLS.


LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL SALES BROKE THE 100K MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME, RIGHT?
ABALKIN IS NOW SYNONYMOUS TO A SOUGHT-AFTER LUXURIOUS BRAND TO ALL CELEBS.
THE NUMBER OF ABALKIN STORES HAS REACHED 150 WORLDWIDE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.
ONE WAS JUST OPENED ON BOND STREET LAST MONTH.


AS EXPECTED OF IOURI.

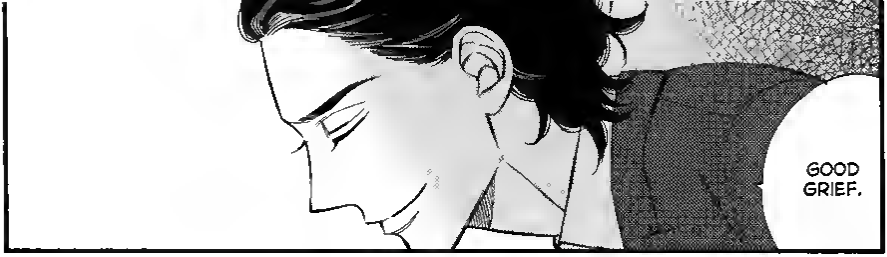
IT WAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU, RESPECTABLE PARTISANS.
I AM HOPING FOR YOUR FUTURE MAGNANIMOUS PATRONAGE FROM HERE ON AS WELL.

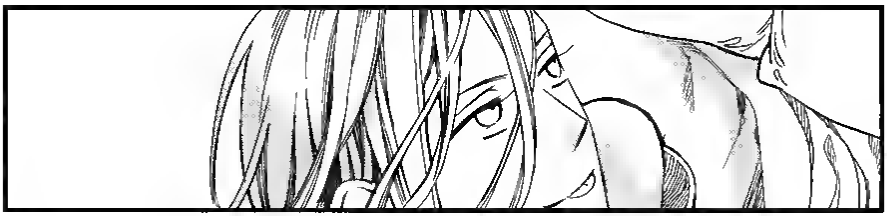

ah
ah
ah
WELL, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK EXCEPTIONALLY HARD.

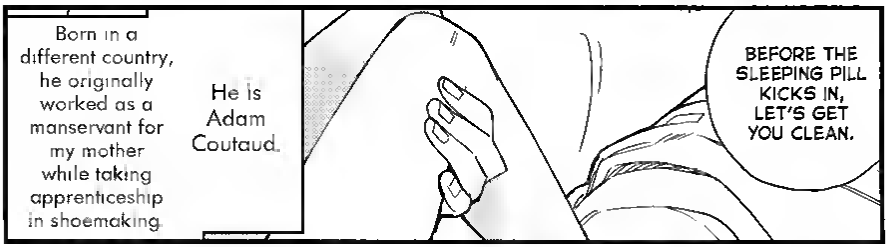


IOURI.
CURSE IT, THOSE WRINKLIES DIDN'T GO EASY ON ME.
HURRY UP AND DIE ALREADY!
BLEH
LOUGH
GET SOME SLEEP.
YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY.
ADAM.

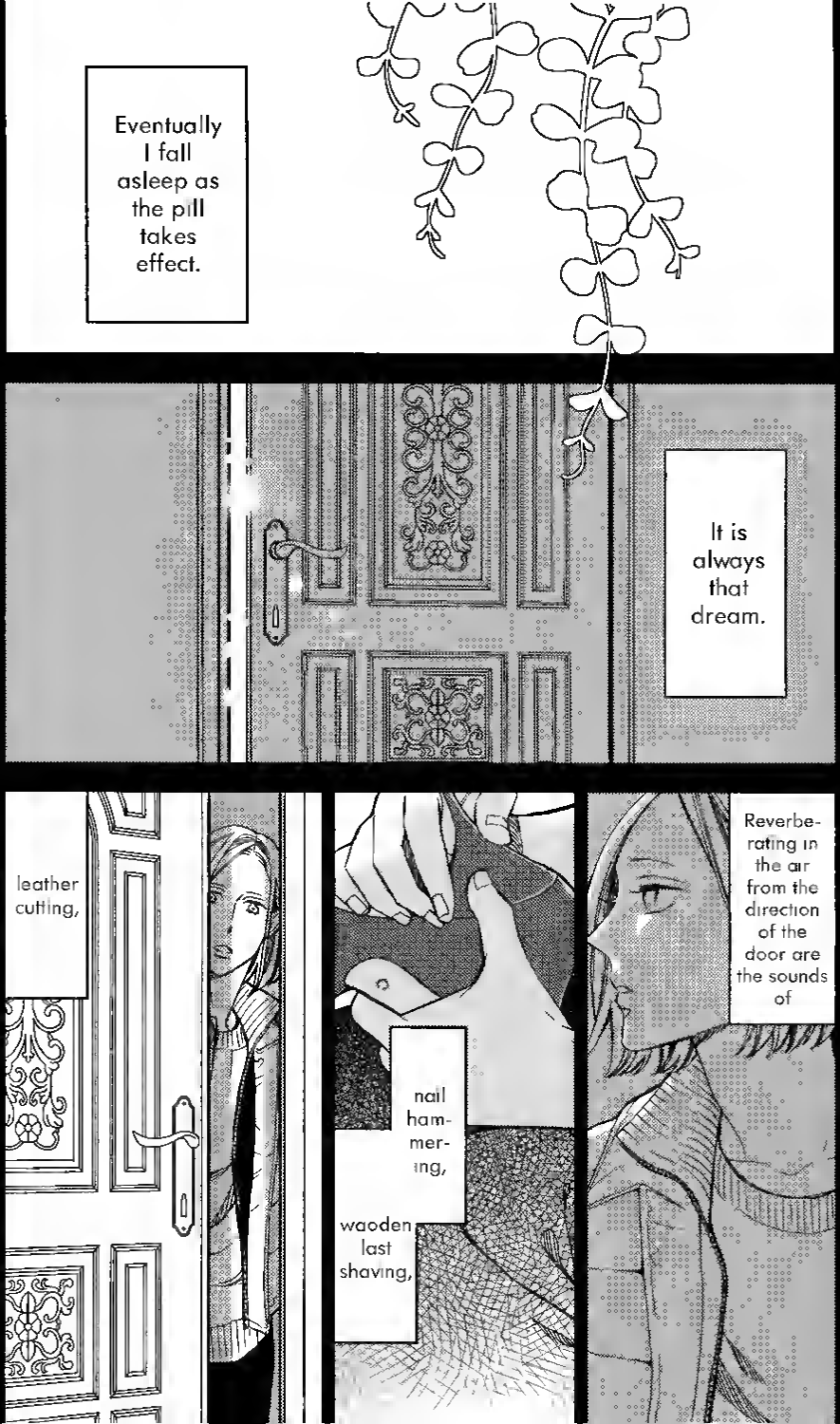
IF YOU DON'T FEED ME MOUTH-TO-MOUTH, I WON'T SWALLOW IT.
GULP
HOW IS THE TASTE OF SEMEN MIXED WITH PUKE?


GOOD GRIEF.

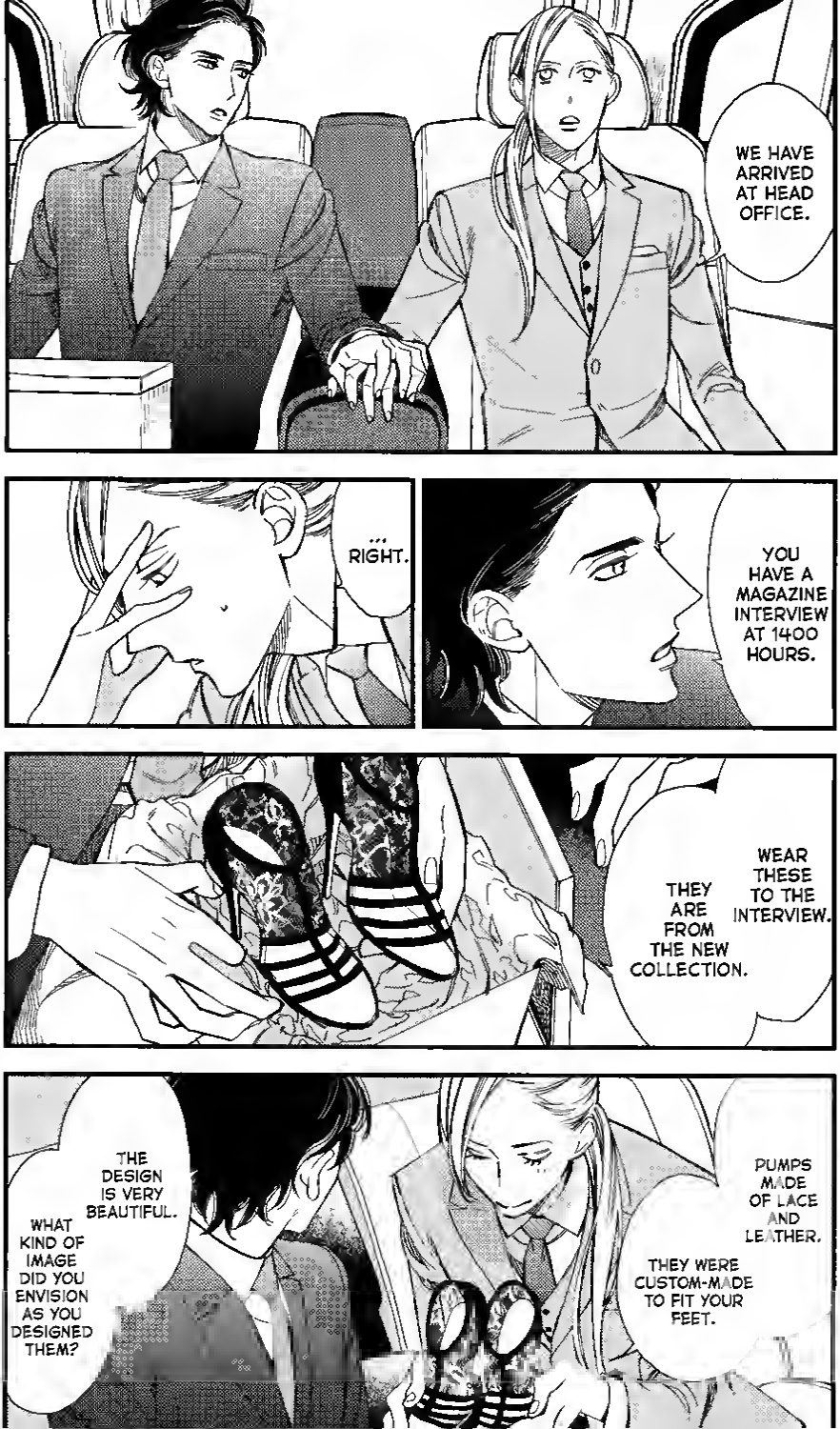



Born in a different country, he originally worked as a manservant for my mother while taking apprenticeship in shoemaking.
He is Adam Coutaud.
BEFORE THE SLEEPING PILL KICKS IN, LET'S GET YOU CLEAN.

Currently, he is my secretary
and always stays by my side.


Eventually I fall asleep as the pill takes effect.
It is always that dream.
leather cutting,
nail hammering,
wooden last shaving,
Reverberating in the air from the direction of the door are the sounds of

IOURI.
and as always, he is there.


WE HAVE ARRIVED AT HEAD OFFICE.
...RIGHT.
YOU HAVE A MAGAZINE INTERVIEW AT 1400 HOURS.
WEAR THESE TO THE INTERVIEW.
THEY ARE FROM THE NEW COLLECTION.
PUMPS MADE OF LACE AND LEATHER.
THEY WERE CUSTOM-MADE TO FIT YOUR FEET.
THE DESIGN IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT KIND OF IMAGE DID YOU ENVISION AS YOU DESIGNED THEM?

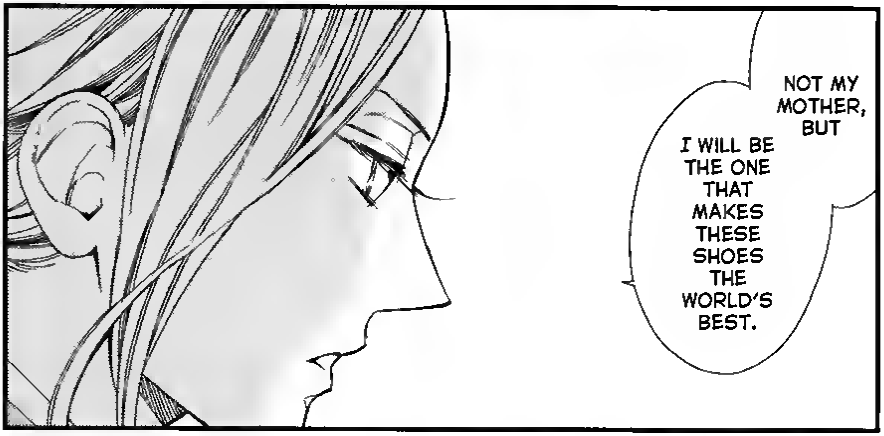
There is anather secret ta Abalkin.
YOU, WALKING DASHINGLY IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.
were designed by Adam.
All Abalkin shaes released under my name
ADAM,
YOUR SHOES ARE DEFINITELY THE BEST.

!
IOURI ?
PAIN
...I'M FINE.
HE MUST BE FEELING HIGH AS A RISING PARVENU.

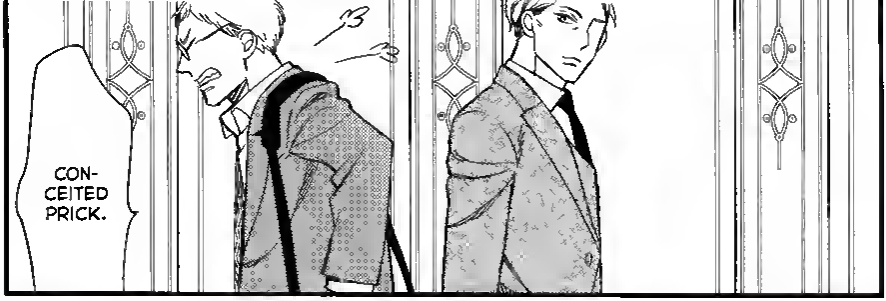
HMM.
ISN'T THERE MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE?
NOT TO MENTION, EACH AND EVERY FASHION MAGAZINE SANG PRAISES IN UNISON.
HOW DOES A YOUNG MAN NEW TO THIS INDUSTRY MANAGE TO RAISE SUCH NUMBER OF FUNDS?
HOWEVER, ITS FUNDS EXCEED ITS SIZE BY FAR.
DESPITE BEING A PROMINENT BRAND, ABALKIN STILL HASN'T GROWN BIGGER THAN A SMALL-TO-MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE.
I'M SMELLING A SCANDAL HERE.
MR ABALKIN, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION REGARDING YOUR OWN APPEARANCE?
A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE MADE FUN OF ME.
HOWEVER, I BELIEVED IT WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE TO VICTORY.
AS I HOPED, THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO ME AND ABALKIN HAS BECOME WHAT IT IS TODAY.

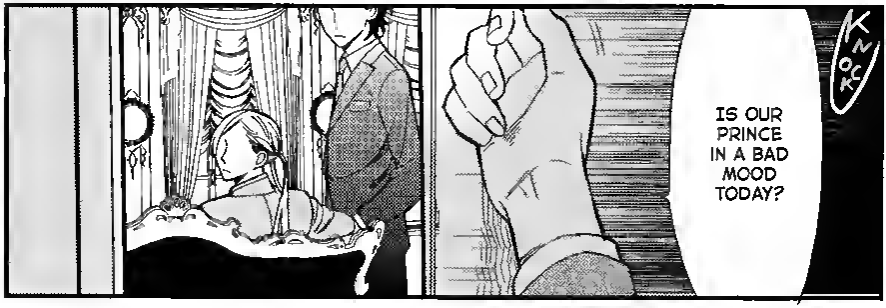
ALSO, WHOEVER SEES ME IN PERSON WILL ALL SAY THIS,
'THERE IS NO ONE THAT LOOKS AS GOOD AS YOU IN ABALKIN'S.'
GRIN
!
HOW ABOUT YOU?
WELL THEN, ARE YOU ALWAYS IN HIGH HEELS?
OF COURSE. EVEN IF I TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES I WON'T TAKE OFF MY ABALKIN.
BECAUSE ABALKIN MAKE A PERSON EVER MORE BEAUTIFUL.
COULD YOU SHARE HOW YOU FELT WHEN YOU FIRST WORE HIGH HEELS?

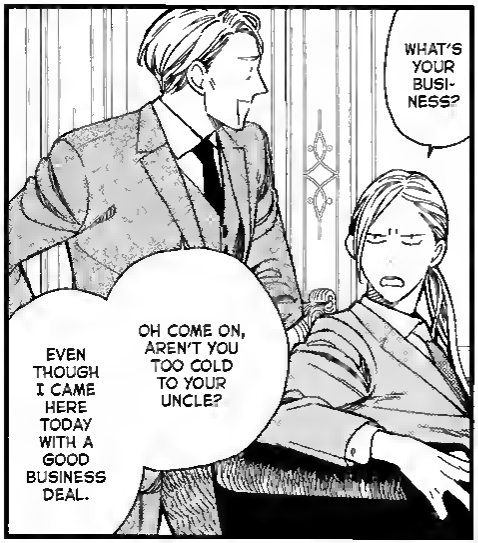
"THESE ARE MINE," THOUGHT I.
SINCE THEY WERE MY MOTHER'S HAND-ME-DOWNS, THEY WERE SLIGHTLY TIGHT.

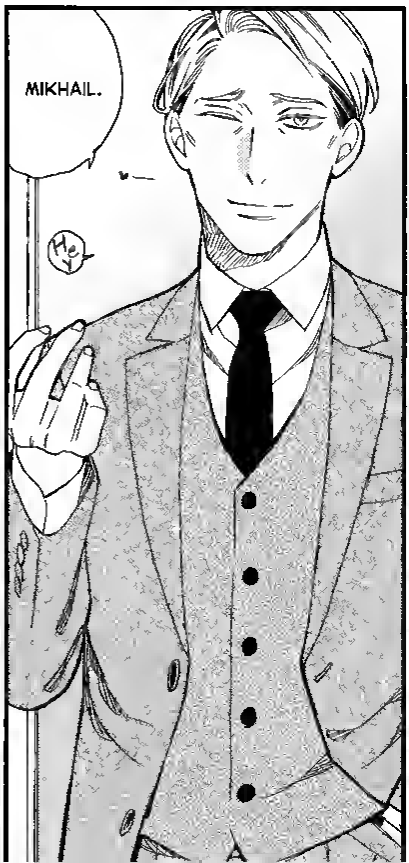

NOT MY MOTHER, BUT I WILL BE THE ONE THAT MAKES THESE SHOES THE WORLD'S BEST.

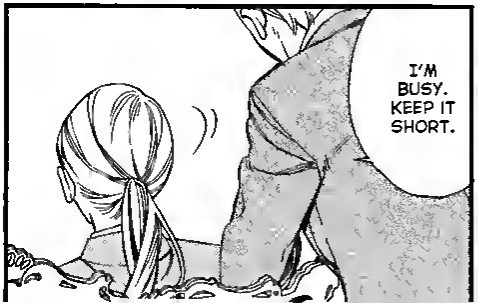
THE INTER-VIEW ENDS HERE.
ADAM, ESCORT ME.
HUH- HOLD ON-
IT'S NOT-
Hmph
IT'S AS IF YOU ARE JEALOUS OF YOUR MOTHER.


CON-
CEITED
PRICK.


KNOCK
IS OUR PRINCE IN A BAD MOOD TODAY?


WHAT'S YOUR BUSI-
NESS?
OH COME ON, AREN'T YOU TOO COLD TO YOUR UNCLE?
EVEN THOUGH I CAME HERE TODAY WITH A GOOD BUSINESS DEAL.


MIKHAIL.
Hey

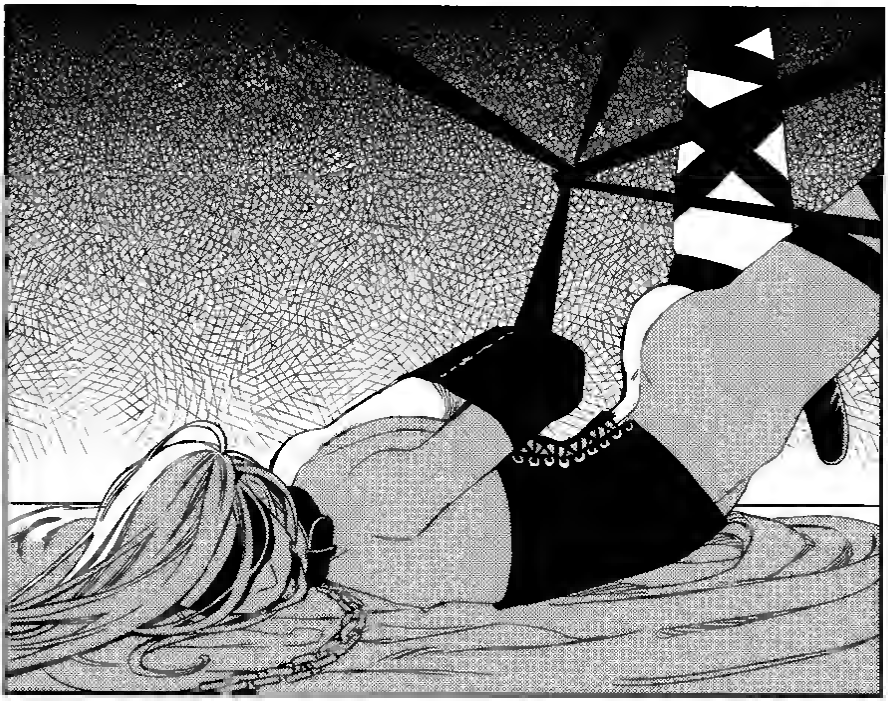

I'M BUSY. KEEP IT SHORT.

A CERTAIN WELL-KNOWN MOVIE DIRECTOR HAS MENTIONED THAT HE MIGHT USE ABALKIN IN HIS NEXT MOVIE.
IT'S A HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTER AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL STAR THE ACADEMY AWARD'S WINNER AS THE LEAD ACTRESS.
WHY DON'T YOU CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE,
WHO SHOULD I SLEEP WITH THIS TIME?
TONY CARTER.
IT'S TRUE THAT IF IT'S HIS MOVIE, OUR BRAND WILL SELL WORLDWIDE.
RIGHT?
NO.

ANYONE BUT HIM.
I'D RATHER DIE THAN SLEEP WITH THAT BASTARD!
IOURI
YOU ALSO SAW WHAT THAT DAMNED SWINE DID TO ME LAST TIME!
THEN, SHALL WE END IT?
EVERY-THING.

IF YOU QUIT, SO WILL I.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, IOURI.



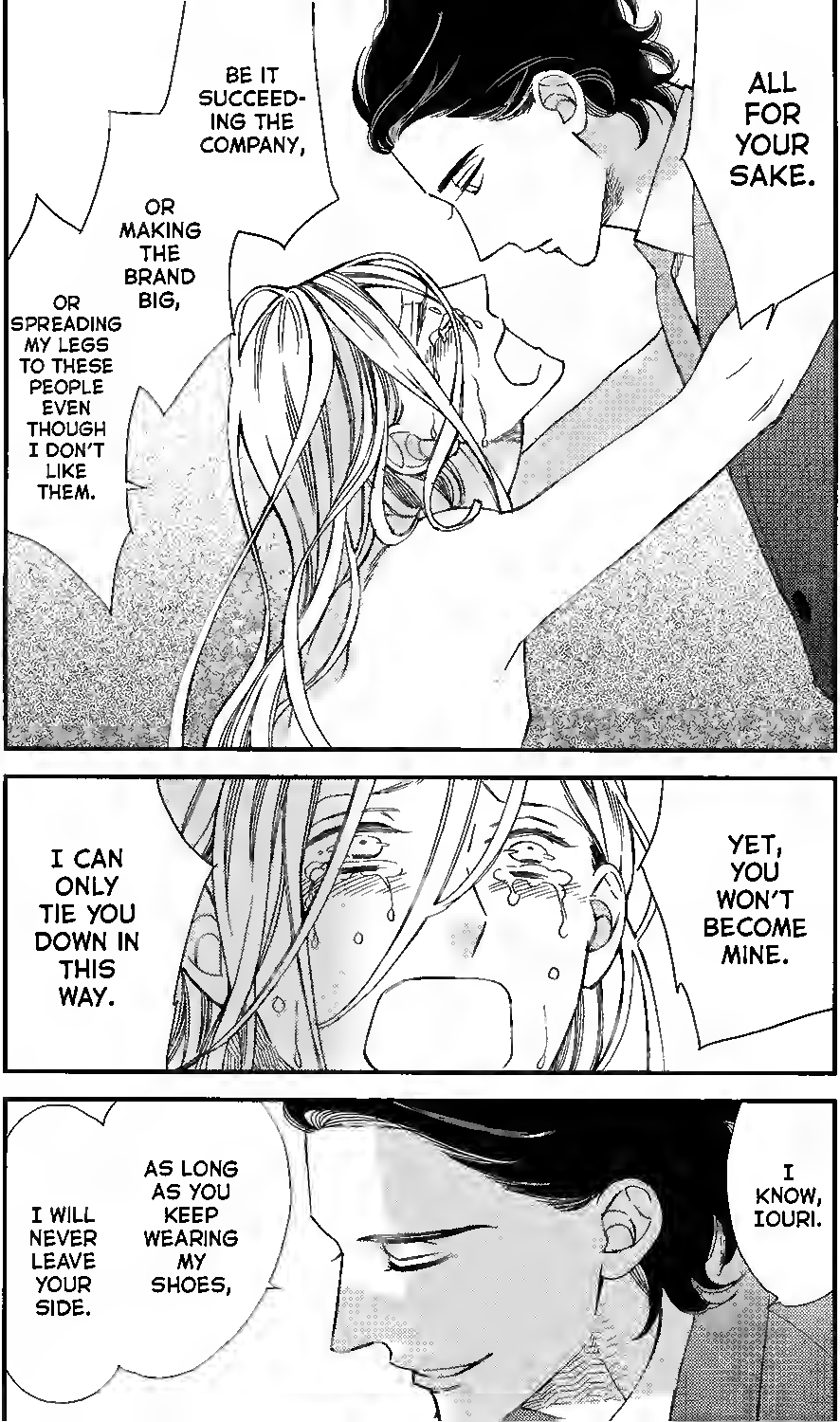
GUH
GEH
OH HA
OOOH
GUH

You are much more suited to grovelling on all fours sucking cock
What's with your prim and proper face on TV?
KR EAK
KR EAK
KR EAK
KR EAK
KR EAK
Hah! I'm going to pump my semen into your mancunt
Adam
Adam
Your shoes,

I will place them at the top of the world.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A GOOD DESIGN.

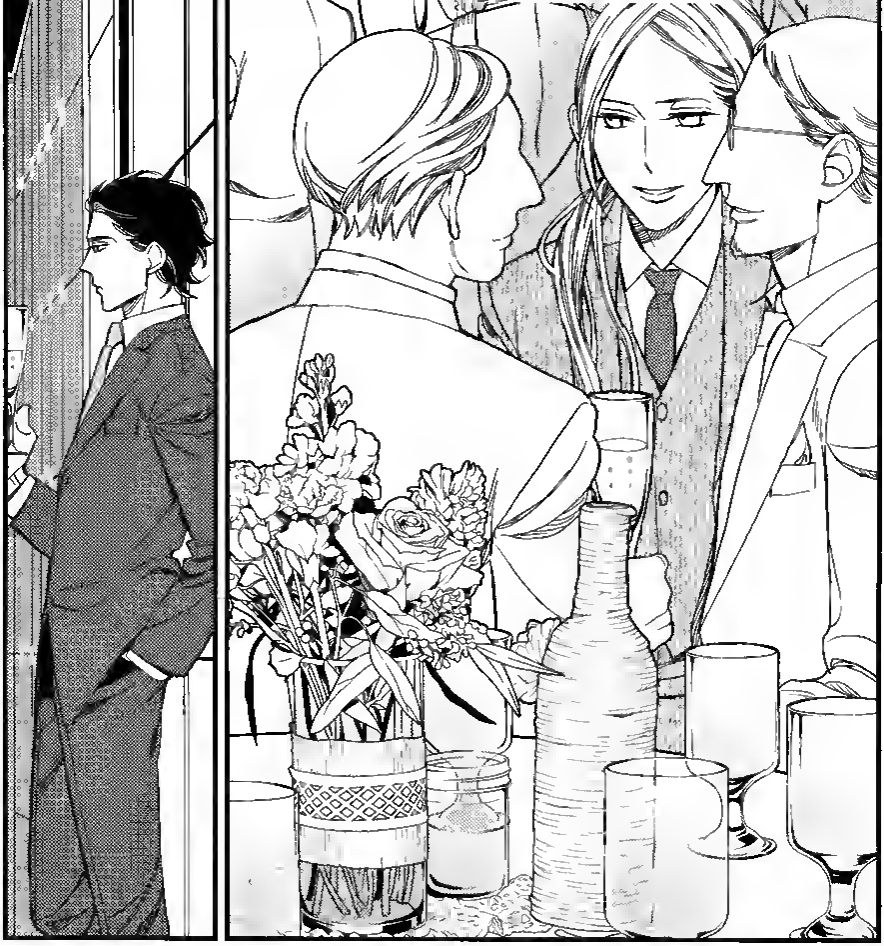
IOURI.

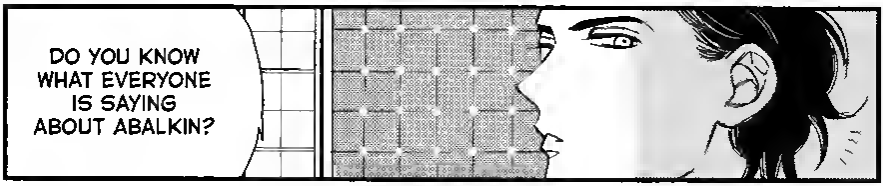
WAAAAH
No more
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, IOURI.
I cannot take this anymore
IOURI
IT'S ALL FOR YOU.

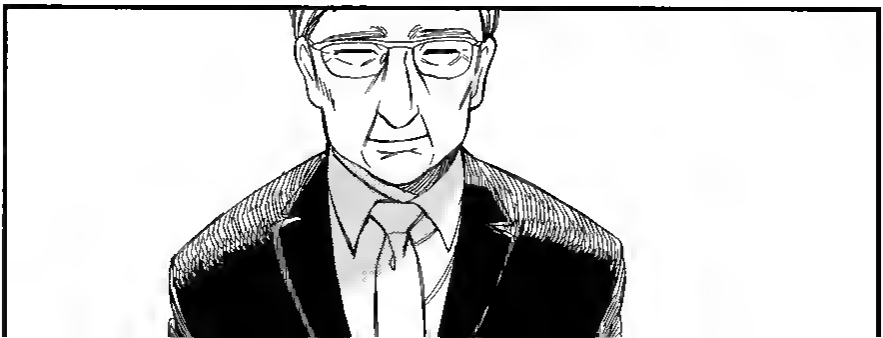

ALL FOR YOUR SAKE.
BE IT SUCCEEDING THE COMPANY,
OR MAKING THE BRAND BIG,
OR SPREADING MY LEGS TO THESE PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE THEM.
YET, YOU WON'T BECOME MINE.
I CAN ONLY TIE YOU DOWN IN THIS WAY.
I KNOW, IOURI.
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP WEARING MY SHOES,
I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE.

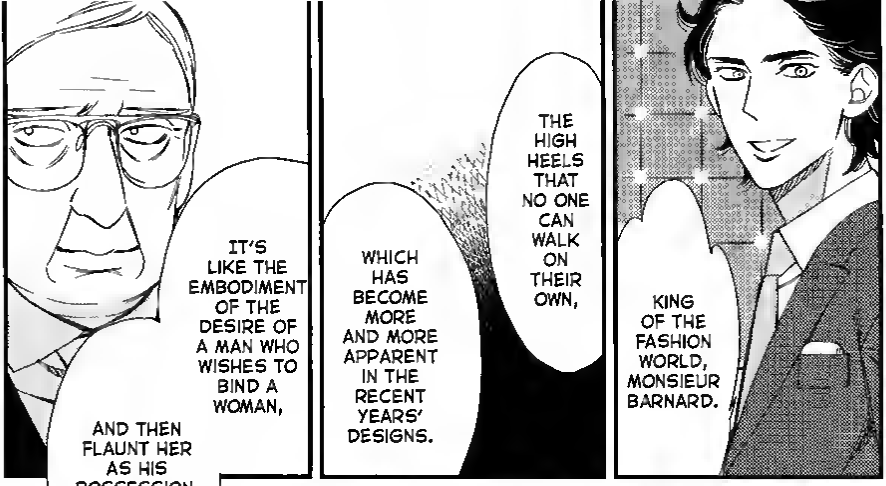
I WILL PREPARE YOU NEW SHOES
FOR THIS EVENING'S SOIRÉE AT THE HOTEL.
...ALL RIGHT.
I WILL ...
I WILL WEAR THEM,
SO PLEASE PUT YOUR SHOES ON ME.
My feet which are constantly in heels have become deformed, with each step I take, severe pain runs through them.

This is my punishment
for wonting those red shoes.
However, I om no longer ollowed to take them off.

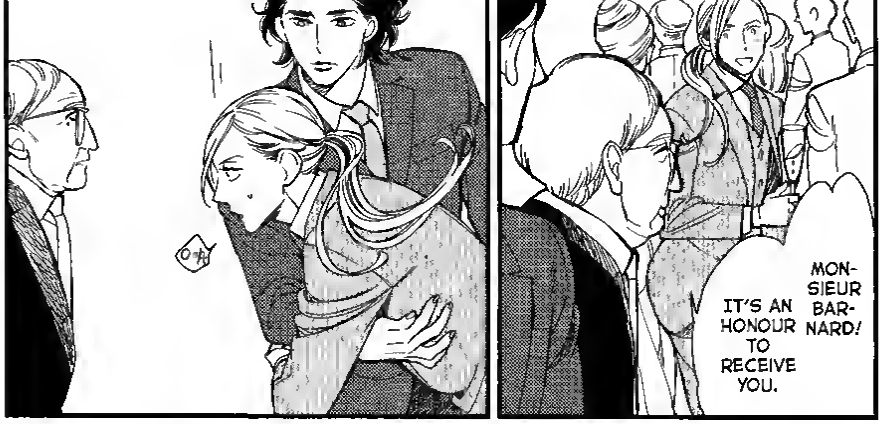


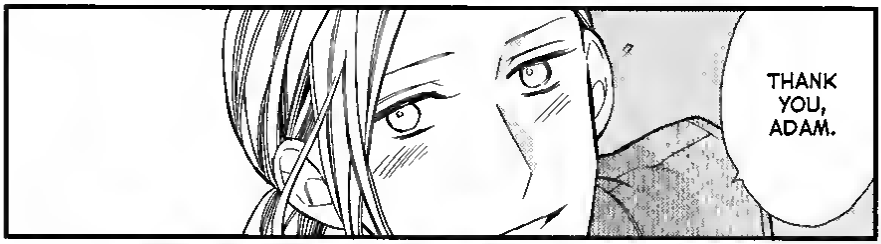

DO YOU KNOW WHAT EVERYONE IS SAYING ABOUT ABALKIN?




KING OF THE FASHION WORLD, MONSIEUR BARNARD.
THE HIGH HEELS THAT NO ONE CAN WALK ON THEIR OWN,
WHICH HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE APPARENT IN THE RECENT YEARS' DESIGNS.
IT'S LIKE THE EMBODIMENT OF THE DESIRE OF A MAN WHO WISHES TO BIND A WOMAN,
AND THEN FLAUNT HER AS HIS POSSESSION,
DON'T YOU THINK?

Câm đi, Ông già.
(YOU'RE NOISY. SHUT UP, OLD GEEZER.)





To be continued